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Page 16

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MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Donning his Superman hat, Issac Laurin was feeling brave.

The seven-year-old showed no signs of fear as he climbed the countless steps to the top, picked a lane and jumped with excitement.

Stretching high into the sky, the gigantic Fun Slide was his favourite part of the 83rd annual Port Colborne Lions Carnival.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

see **CARNIVAL** | page 2

Sarah Klaver and Kobe Vravelle show no fear at the 83rd annual Port Colborne Lions Carnival on Saturday.

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upfront

■ CARNIVAL

They came from near and far to party

FROM PAGE 1

More photos page 3.

Well, second favourite if you count the hot dog he thoroughly enjoyed before hitting the rides.

For six-year-old Seth Brear, the highlight of the day was taking home a blow up Spiderman that towered him in size.

The Welland youngster was all smiles after claiming victory at one of the midway games.

While the games topped his list for fun, mom Georgia Excell preferred the raffles held by the Lions. She grabbed her tickets in hopes of winning a new car.

"We've been coming here every year since I was a little girl," said the Welland resident, who loves being able to now bring her own children to the event.

Though Amy Kadir now lives in Hamilton, she travels back to her hometown of Port Colborne for the carnival every year.

She always enjoys the small-town tradition, but this year was extra special as she was able to share it with husband Frank and their 14-month-old son Noah.

"He's a little daredevil," Kadir said with a laugh as she watched her little one on the flying Dumbo ride

with her hubby.

Though she comes for the fun, Kadir admitted she stays for the eats.

"The doughnuts are to die for, and the waffles," she said, planning to hit the canteen before calling it a day.

The Lions' famous doughnuts had families lining up all weekend for the tasty treats, said carnival chairman Harry Davidson. Crews were on track to reach sales of 28,000 doughnuts over the carnival's four days.

"The crowds are bigger this year. We've hit records," said Davidson, who helieves the success was due in part to the weather and in part to improved promotion for the 83rd annual event.

"We really got people's attention this year."

As well as the many returning features of the carnival, the Lions also debuted a three-room blow-up house purchased by the organization to teach children and the community about fire safety. It was set up and used for demonstrations by Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services on Sunday.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photos

ABOVE: Seth Brear is all smiles after winning a gigantic Spiderman at the 83rd annual Port Colborne Lions Carnival Saturday.
BELOW: Five-year-old Dallas Brear shows off his prize from the Fish Pond.

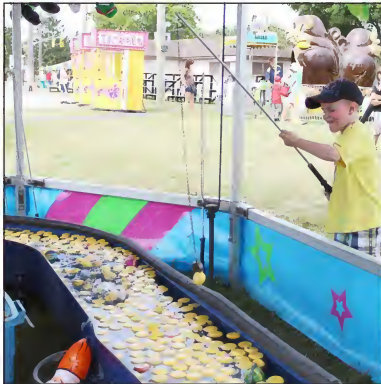


portraits

A day of fun at the carnival



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Seven-year-old Issac Laurin braves the gigantic Fun Slide.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Five-year-old Dallas Brear tries his luck at a fishing game during the 83rd annual Port Colborne Lions Carnival on Saturday.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Port Colborne Lion Scott Wolfe makes a batch of the famous doughnuts that cause lineups.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Seth Brear sizes up his prize.



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■ ourview

Removing a hospital will injure a city

What is a hospital's role? It seems rather obvious—it's there to look after sick people. To help us when we fall ill, the educate us about staying healthy.

But is that all? What other responsibilities does a hospital have to the overall health of the community it serves?

What about as a place of employment? As a creator of wealth? A means of attracting new business and residents?

All of that will be lost to Welland and Port Colborne if Niagara Health System gets government approval to move ahead with its idea of constructing a new south Niagara hospital in Niagara Falls.

Much of the argument for and against this idea has centred around health care, which is as it should be. Available services—and the accessibility of those services—is the cornerstone of any plan to close hospitals and relocate what they do to another municipality.

But it is not the only discussion. Let's look at Welland and what the loss of the hospital will mean to this city. It will leave a huge hole on King St., literally and metaphorically.

Think of the jobs that will depart the city, the spinoff spending. Consider the lunches and dinners and other weekly shopping that will no longer be purchased in Welland.

One will be ancillary development. Flower shops. Pharmacies. Grocery stores. You name it—all will dry up and move to Niagara Falls, which will gain jobs and tax dollars at the expense of another city.

So the question is: What is a hospital's role, and by extension of asking this, what is the provincial government's responsibility in using a hospital to bolster a city's economic stability and growth?

The NHS has it says many solid clinical arguments for proceeding with the consolidation of aging hospitals into one new facility. That seems to be true. The NHS would further argue, and has done so, that it should not be considered as part of the economic engine. That part is not true. Of course the health system believes that—it allows it to make decisions like closing hospitals without regard for issues not directly related to health care. But modern-day health facilities are about more than surgeries and helping us when we get sick. They cost too much for it to be otherwise.

And holding the NHS and the provincial government answerable on these topics is precisely what our own local officials must do. We haven't heard enough of that argument.

■ COLUMN

America – give me your tired, your poor and some of that Zigzag rollin' paper



WILLIAM THOMAS

HUMOUR

The Go Big Or Go Home' country called America is about to become 'Stoner Nation.' Leonard Cohen's prediction unfulfilled, democracy may not be coming to the U.S.A. any time soon but marijuana sure is. And it will hit the streets in legal form sooner, bigger and bolder than anyone ever envisioned.

Take the will of the majority of Washington State voters who legalized it, add the brains and \$100 million investment of former Microsoft partner James Shively, throw in the political power of Vancouver Fox, the former president of Mexico and you can almost smell the stinky stink of five-foot cannabis plants blowing out of the northwest. All of the above have come out strongly in recent weeks championing a corporate distribution brand called "Big Marijuana."

Using logical arguments involving a \$2 billion state tax grab over five years, the saving of tens of millions of dollars to fight the illegal drug trade and the elimination of the violence and killings of 6,000 Mexicans each year at the hands of the drug cartel and year - Woody Tabacky Inc. is on its way.

Even actor Patrick Dempsey who plays that McCreary guy on 'Grey's Anatomy' has jumped into the race to be the first to legalize the State. Dempsey is about to close the deal to purchase a Seattle coffee chain called Tully's. "There's a business model there," he says. "A Michelin-starred coffee shop where you can get marijuana." It's hard to dismiss the opinion of a man who actually has played a doctor on TV.

Yes, in the not-so-distant future, Americans will be able to get stoned in classy cafes and seaside bistros instead of having to go over to Woody Harrelson's house all the time.

But have they really thought this thing through?

First of all, somebody owes an apology to the tobacco industry. After agreeing to pay \$246 billion in fines to states for poisoning their people's vital organs, are the big cigarette manufacturer's about to be told that if they had nixed their product with THC instead of nicotine there would not have been a problem at all.

Plus the drinking and driving lectures to the teenagers gets an extra sentence or two.

"Jimmy, if you have a drink, you're not taking the car. If you do a joint,



QMI Agency

The Go Big Or Go Home country called America is about to become Stoner Nation. Leonard Cohen's prediction unfulfilled, democracy may not be coming to the U.S.A. any time soon but marijuana sure is. And it will hit the streets in legal form sooner, bigger and bolder than anyone ever envisioned.

you're not even taking the skateboard." Washington, D.C. will no doubt jump into the legalization debate and hopefully experimentation will be a necessary part of the process.

A little pot smoking in the capital could improve federal politics at this point.

"Ah, Congressman Boehner, are you aware at this very moment the Obama administration is ramming through legalization in the house that would double the cost of health care, triple the federal budget and shut down the National Rifle Association?"

"Yeah, whatever. Man, have you seen the ears on that dude? Seriously, that's a pickup truck coming" at you with the front doors open."

Comedian Bill Maher claims that senators and congressional representatives passed around a joint will never happen because in Washington, D.C. they flatly refuse to pass anything.

Colorado has also legalized the use of non-medical marijuana and Governor John Hickenlooper has signed the bill into law. Colorado's state song "Where The Columbines Grow" is currently being changed to "Where The Columbian Gold Grows." Whereas the 16 states that have decriminalized marijuana (with eight come on the way) have not come up with a test for people driving under the influence of marijuana, Colorado has. State and local police will simply pull over drivers suspected of being stoned and ask them to say the word "Hickenlooper" three times

fast. Colorado's new tourism motto: "Come for the hiking and the skiing, stay because you can't find your car."

Research has shown that there are far more drinking and driving people on the roads than those that took and drive but in fairness most of those stoned drivers are trapped in fast food drive-thrus all over America.

The rush of "Big Marijuana" is coming so fast the University of California has announced that it will establish a marijuana research centre. Residents living close to that institution have always believed the University of California was a marijuana research centre.

Strangely, California with its massive illegal grow-ups was not one of the states to legalize the sale of marijuana. State legislators expected a landslide vote to pass the cannabis bill. In fairness, 27 million pro-marijuana voters did show up at the polls ... three days after the election.

Strange, in Canada we still can't buy a can of beer in a convenience store but soon half of all Americans will be able to buy a pack of "Frank Sinatra Doobie, Doobie, Doos" at 7-Eleven. In Canada we're still waiting for "Big Beer" distribution.

America - "In God We Trust." "In weed we, ah, what? Where was I? Did you say cheesecake? I thought you said snowflake which is why I've been laughing since late last night. Either way, I'm in."

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■ **RESTAURANT:** Business staying put at Sugarloaf Harbour Marina

Don Cherry's is not closing



Don Cherry's Sports Grill, above Sugarloaf Harbour Marina in Port Colborne, is not closing.

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Don Cherry's Sports Grill is not closing, despite the rumours spreading across the lakeside city.

"It makes me angry when I hear that," said Kevin Forrester, the general manager of the restaurant at Sugarloaf Harbour Marina in Port Colborne.

He heard the restaurant was to close on Canada Day, while another rumour has it closing today.

Forrester, who took over the GM's job two months ago, said it's disappointing for himself and staff to hear the rumours. He doesn't know

where or why they started.

The restaurant opened in May 2012 and employs 35 people, said the general manager, adding the owners of the franchise are committed to keeping it open.

Since he's taken over, Forrester has made some changes and admitted there's been a couple of hiccups. He added the changes were positive ones.

"I'm working on a new menu."

He said the restaurant is busy and is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to midnight, and later on weekends.

"We're not closing."

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

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Runners to don grass skirts and flowery shirts

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE

Runners wearing grass skirts and flowery shirts will be taking to Port Colborne city streets during the third annual Canal Days Run on the Canal Days weekend.

And while they're running or walking the five-kilometre course, they'll be raising funds for the Niagara chapter of Autism Ontario.

The event takes place Saturday, Aug. 3, at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park and consists of a five-kilometre run/walk and a children's fun run.

"The kids fun run loops around the park," said race director Adam Bunz of Down

to the Wire, an event management company specializing in race course setup for running races and triathlons, adding that course is 600 metres and is open to children 11 and younger.

The five-kilometre route starts at the park, heads out on to Sugarloaf St. east to King St., then turns south on to King St. to the recreational path to Sugarloaf Harbour Marina, then through the road the back of the park and behind Northland Pointe to Steele St. From there it heads west to Tennessee Ave. then to Rosemount, where it takes a turn north to Sugarloaf St. It then heads east on Sugarloaf back to Steele and behind Port Colborne hospital and

Northland Pointe back into the park.

"It's a flat, fast course," said Bunz of the Canal Days event also organized by St. Catharines Road Runners and Walkers.

Registration starts at 7 a.m., with the children's fun run starting at 8 a.m. and the five-kilometre run at 8:30 a.m.

"All runners, walkers and kids will receive a finisher's award for taking part. There are also prizes for people who wear Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts or leis."

Bunz said for every \$50 raised by participants, their names will go into a draw for various prizes.

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Dodging the raindrops



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Falling rain didn't stop Dunnville-based Griffin Landscaping employees from cutting the grass at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne last Thursday morning.

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■ TOURS: HMCS Glace Bay open to public

Warship making a stop in Port Colborne

InPort News Staff

HAIFA — Port Colborne residents will have a chance to tour a Royal Canadian Navy mechanical minesweeper next week when it docks in the city.

The HMCS Glace Bay will be in Port Colborne, docked on West St. at the end of Sugarloaf St., at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 12, and be open for tours on Saturday, July 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to the navy's website, HMCS Glace Bay is the second of the Kingston class vessels, which were designed with a minesweeping role in mind. The vessels are also known as Maritime Coastal Defense Vessels and were built and launched from the mid to late 1990s.

"They are crewed entirely by members of the Naval Reserve, with the exception of two Regular Force technicians per crew. They were designed to be multi-role, multi-pur-

pose and cost efficient that would serve Canada's maritime interests," the website says.

HMCS Glace Bay's main missions are coastal surveillance, sovereignty patrol, and training. It can also perform a variety of operational tasks including, mine countermeasures, search and rescue, control of shipping, and to support to other government departments in areas of law enforcement, anti-smuggling, resource protection, fisheries and environmental monitoring, counter-terrorism, disaster relief, and scientific research.

The vessel also has "interchangeable modular payloads" to provide capabilities for deep mechanical minesweeping, mine-hunting, bottom object inspection, deep seabed intervention, sonar scanning of the seabed, remotely operated vehicles (surface and sub-surface), and explosive ordnance disposal diving.

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BERND FRANKE Staff Photo

Danny Gambin, from left, junior male athlete of the year; Hailey Kranics, junior female; Adam McLeod, two Ontario high school track and field goal medals; Patrick Stairs, senior male; and Gina Gambin, senior female; are among the top award winners at Lakeshore's athletic assembly Monday in Port Colborne.

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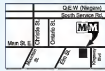


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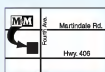
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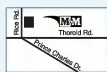
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datebook

THURSDAY
 JULY 11

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FRIDAY
 JULY 12

KITTY ADOPTION
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at Wainfleet Township Public Library
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SATURDAY
 JULY 13

FAMILY PICNIC
 at the Hungarian Hall, 361 Hellesms
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MEDITATION MORNING

Marcia leads you through different
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see DATEBOOK | page 13

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**MONDAY
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ART CAMP WEEK
Port Colborne Art Club is sponsoring the week ending July 19. Morning classes are

open to 16 students aged 7 to 12. Cartooning, drawing as well as painting with watercolours and acrylics will be taught. All supplies will be provided. Location: Upstairs at Bethel Community Centre at 2703 Chipawa Rd. Port Colborne. Classes run 9:30 a.m. to noon. Doors open at 9 a.m. Cost: \$75 for the week. Register by calling Denise Hesler at 905-899-1215.

see DATEBOOK | page 14

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LAXATIVES AND CONSTIPATION

Very rarely does a day go by where there isn't a question about constipation from a patient treated by the pharmacy. Most patients want to know what they should take that is available without a prescription.

Constipation is a symptom that occurs when waste moves too slowly through the body, resulting in stool that is dry and hard. This often makes it difficult and painful to pass.

Some medications such as antidepressants, water pills, and certain pain killers (such as Oxycotin and Codeine) may cause constipation.

The frequency of bowel movements varies from person to person, from as little as twice a week to a couple of times a day, and is affected by diet, medications, and exercise.

If you are having trouble going to the washroom, the first thing a pharmacist will usually recommend is increasing the amount of fibre in the diet by eating whole grains, fruits and vegetables. In addition, drinking at least 8 glasses of water will minimize constipation.

If these suggestions do not work, there are several options available to you.

For short-term treatment of constipation, (if you haven't been in the washroom in several days), a saline laxative such as Milk of Magnesia can be tried. Alternatively glycerin suppositories work quite well. If symptoms still do not resolve you could consider an enema with the advice of your physician.

Stimulant laxatives such as Dulcolax and Senokot can also be used to maintain regularity. If you are on long term narcotic therapy you may need to take these types of medications as you are taking the narcotics.

For long-term treatment of constipation, bulk-forming agents such as Metamucil or Prolin can be used. These bulk-forming agents increase the stool weight, allowing the stool to pass through the body faster and cause more frequent bowel movements. These agents typically take about 12-72 hours to take effect and are usually safe to use for long periods of time. When taking bulk-forming agents, it is recommended to drink lots of fluid.

For young children there are a few options. For immediate relief a pediatric glycerin suppository can be tried. For chronic long term management PEG 3350 is often prescribed, or is available over-the-counter as LAX-A-Day. You should consult your family doctor however if you want to try an oral medication for a child suffering from chronic constipation.

If you are not having trouble going to the washroom, but you find the stool to be too hard and painful to pass, the pharmacist may recommend a stool softener such as Colace (docusate sodium) that will soften the stool for increased comfort.

Before deciding on a therapy, talk to a pharmacist and they can help you decide on a treatment that is right for you.

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THE 3 ARRRS

Make a pirate costume out of recycled materials at home and then join Niagara Region public works staff as they present an interactive pirate-themed show all about recycling, at Port Colborne Public Library. For children five to eight years old. Free, just pre-register at the library 905-834-6512.

WEDNESDAY JULY 17

THE 3 ARRRS

Make a pirate costume out of recycled materials at home and then join Niagara Region public works staff as they present an interactive pirate-themed show all about recycling, at Pelham Public Library. The presentation will involve games and skill-building activities. Starts 1 p.m., cost \$2.

PC LIBRARY EXPLORER TOTS.

For ages 2-4 with parent/caregiver. Stories, crafts and games. July 17, 31 &

FRIDAY JULY 19

GAME PALOOZA!

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SATURDAY JULY 20

ROSEDALE'S ROOTN TOOTN

Round-up between 11 a.m and 2 p.m., 11 Rosedale Pl. (off Lincoln St.). Free garage sale, free hotdogs, free bears, free popcorn, free activities for the kids, free pony rides. God has blessed us for 75 years and we want to share the blessings with you.

FRIDAY JULY 26

QUIDDITCH MATCH

at Wainfleet Township Public Library from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. To celebrate Harry Potter's birthday, we will be having our 6th annual Quidditch match (weather permitting). Slytherin vs. Gryffindor. For children aged six and up. Please pre-register by calling 905-899-1277 by July 24.

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■ REMEMBERING

Wainfleet to get first cenotaph

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — A cenotaph to honour people who gave their lives for Canada has been given the go-ahead by Wainfleet council.

It will be the first-ever cenotaph in the township. It is still undergoing final design, including landscaping, and will be placed between the fire hall and township hall.

Council last week recognized a new cenotaph committee, approved the building of the cenotaph and granted the land where it will be built and will install a fundraising thermometer on site until the cenotaph is ready for construction. The township will be responsible for ownership and upkeep.

The committee's Doug Wilford said the idea of a cenotaph, which will be in both English and French, has been kicked around Wainfleet for years. The most recent proposal was made in 2007 at a cost of \$186,000, which put the project on the back burner.

"We do not have a final

price tag, but based on current estimates the maximum price would be about \$60,000 versus the minimum of \$40,000," he told aldermen.

Asked if he was seeking money from the township, Wilford said he wouldn't turn it down.

"We hope to receive government funding, but we won't know until we submit our proposal."

The proposal will go the Community War Memorial Program, which runs through Veteran Affairs Canada until March 31, 2015, and which may provide financial assistance to a maximum of 30% of the total eligible costs.

Wilford said that program has advised the cenotaph committee to submit its proposal as soon as it can, in case funding goes quickly.

He also told council that Niagara Community Foundation has approached the group. The committee will fundraise as well.

Asked by Ald. David Wyatt whether anyone had contacted the committee about a skatepark

being proposed for the same area, to the east of the fire hall on Park St., Wilford said they were aware of it.

Mayor April Jeffs asked fire Chief Harry Flagg whether he had any concerns over the location, considering a fire master

plan called for the expansion of the fire hall.

Flagg said the fire master plan had a lot of financial implica-

tions for the township and didn't believe it was fair to put the cenotaph project on hold in the meantime.

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■ **TURBINES:** NRWC calls host landowners visionaries

Wind corporation announces \$9.2M fund

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WEST LINCOLN — A foundation will be set up to take care of a \$9.2-million community vision fund in West Lincoln, the chair and CEO of Niagara Region Wind Corp. announced last week.

Mervin Croghan made the announcement on the property of Brian and Alice Heaslip, who signed up to

have wind turbines installed on their land, if and when NRWC's proposed 60-turbine wind project is approved.

Other landowners who worked with NRWC were also in the crowd and Croghan acknowledged them and their contributions.

"Many people here are folks that signed up ... for them it was crucial to work together to give back to the entire community. They

worked hard to make sure the entire community benefited. Without the landowners, this would not have happened."

Croghan called them visionaries and told them not to let people tell them any different.

The vibrancy fund, which had been turned down by West Lincoln council, will be an independent body comprising between 11 and 15 residents and will be

called the Niagara Region Community Vibrancy Fund Foundation for the Township of West Lincoln.

"It will oversee the distribution of funds over the 20-year lifecycle of the project."

Non-profit groups, community associations, local groups and organizations that provide social services, sports and recreation, education, training and environmental protection, among

others, will be the recipients of the funds handed out by the foundation.

NRWC spokeswoman Randi Rahamin said the \$9.2 million over 20 years amounts to \$465,000 a year.

She said the amount of money for the vibrancy fund was based on a formula in relation to the number of wind turbines and the megawatts of power they will produce.

NRWC has applied to

have up to 80 wind turbines installed in West Lincoln, Haldimand and Wainfleet, though it only needs 77, said Rahamin. Of those turbines, 40 would go in West Lincoln, 30 in Haldimand and seven in Wainfleet.

Wainfleet, like West Lincoln, has declared itself as an unwilling host for wind turbines.

see **FUND** | page 17



SHIFT INTO

SUMMER

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■ FUND

Applications will be accepted until Aug. 15

FROM PAGE 16

Rahamim said NRW is aware of a recent motion passed by Wainfleet council.

That motion, presented by Ald. Betty Konec, called for any negotiations regarding vibrancy funds to be held in

the open.

"Negotiations in public are unusual... but we'll respect the process," said Rahamim, adding financial discussions usually start off in-camera.

As for people who want to be part of the vibrancy fund foundation in West

Lincoln, Croghan said they can submit an application through info@nrwc.ca until Aug. 15. The applications will be reviewed and the foundation should be announced by Sept. 3.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Mervin Croghan, chair and CEO of Niagara Region Wind Corp., announces a \$9.2-million community vibrancy fund for West Lincoln on Wednesday morning.



SHIFT INTO SUMMER

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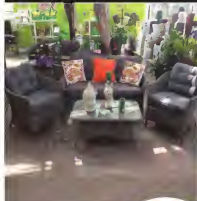
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Ward boundaries may be tinkered with

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Lakeside city councillors are not hungry for change. Council spent about an hour during a special meeting last week examining and discussing its governance structure and whether any changes should be made prior to the next municipal election in October 2014.

In recapping the session Thursday, Mayor Vance Badawey said councillors "did not have the appetite" to make changes to its structure after speaking with constituents and discussing potential options moving forward.

Three main issues were looked at: Whether councillors should move from ward-specific representation to at-large, whether the size of council should be reduced, and whether ward boundaries should be reviewed to ensure balanced representation based on population in each.

Council "felt strongly" about the need to preserve the wards within the city, as each has its own unique identity with unique needs, Badawey said.

The consensus pertaining to the size of council, he said, was that it's a small price to pay to have two people representing each ward.

"Residents receive more value for their money by having more minds and opinions around the table."

Councillors receive a base pay of \$9,458 each plus benefits, with additional funds in varying amounts for sitting on different committees.

Several councillors shared details of their discussions with constituents, many who felt council's structure works effectively as is, Badawey said.

Where the only change may come in, though still yet to be decided, is with the population of each ward.

As the population is lower in some wards than others, council did ask staff to bring back a report looking at the ward boundaries and options to better balance the populations between them.

Ward 1 has 5,124 residents; Ward 2 has 3,895; Ward 3 has 6,078, and Ward 4 has 4,282.

The report, which will contain options while still taking into consideration Port Colborne's geographic challenges, is expected to come forward to council either later this month or early August.

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MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Juno Award-winning musician Serena Ryder invites Welland teen Jessica Wilson on stage to sing Please Baby Please during a concert held Saturday in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

If you have a story idea or see news happening, we want to hear from you —

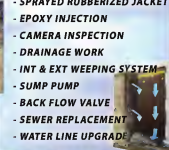
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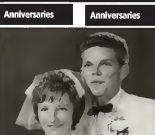
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